



OPERATION MILITARY KIDS
319 PIONEER TOWER
1 UNIVERSITY PLAZA
PLATTEVILLE, WI 53818

PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR WISCONSIN MILITARY CHILDREN

March 2013

Dear School Administrator,

Did you know April is "Month of the Military Child?" Wisconsin has a large population of military families and, more specifically, over 14,000 children of service members. These families are spread across the state and, often, are not known as military families to the communities in which they live. We would like to change that and, with your help, we can!

Military kids deserve recognition and appreciation, just like their service member. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage your school to recognize and support any military youth who attend your school. Attached to this letter is a list of ideas and activities that individual teachers, or even better, the entire school, could incorporate into their curriculum during the month of April. It would be a great service to the men and women who serve this country, to recognize the sacrifices their children make on a daily basis. I hope you find these program ideas easy to implement and of no financial burden to the school.

Feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance to you or your staff in incorporating any or all of these activities in your school. Please e-mail me your success stories and pictures. I can be reached by email at megan.montgomery@ces.uwex.edu or by phone at 608/388-4373. I look forward to hearing about your efforts to promote "Month of the Military Child" and recognize all of the young heroes in your school.

Sincerely,

Megan E. Montgomery
Megan E. Montgomery
4-H Military Partnership VISTA
Fort McCoy, Wisconsin

Month of the Military Child

1. Write letters to include in Hero Packs
 - a. Hero Packs are distributed to kids when a parent is deployed. Each Hero Pack includes a letter from another youth in Wisconsin, thanking the child for their service and sacrifice while their parent is deployed.
 - b. Kindergarten through High School students can write letters to include in the Hero Packs.
2. Read and discuss stories in classroom about the Military/Military Families
 - a. *Night Catch* by Brenda Ehrmantraut (recommended for Early Childhood – Kindergarten)
 - b. *The Wishing Tree* by Mary Redman (recommended for Early Childhood – Kindergarten)
 - c. *Captain Cat* by Syd Hoff (recommended for Early Childhood – Kindergarten)
 - d. *100 Days and 99 Nights* by Alan Madison (recommended for Grades 1 - 4)
 - e. *Stars Above Us* by Geoffrey Norman (recommended for Grades 1 - 4)
 - f. *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn (recommended for Grades 1 - 4)
 - g. *Off to War: Voices of Soldiers' Children* by Deborah Ellis (recommended for Grades 5 - 8)
 - h. *Dacey's Song* by Cynthia Voigt (recommended for Grades 5 - 8)
 - i. *Sunrise Over Fallujah* by Walter Dean Myers (recommended for Grades 9 - 12)
 - j. *Soldier's Heart* by Gary Paulsen (recommended for Grades 9 - 12)
3. Fundraiser for an organization that supports Military Kids
 - a. Principal for the Day
 - b. Lunch with the Principal at a local restaurant
 - c. Dance-a-thon
 - d. No School Uniform Day
 - e. Two Quarter Tuesday
 - i. Pajama Day
 - ii. Silly Hat Day
 - iii. Ice Cream Day
 - f. Penny Parade
4. Color/Decorate books designed for Military Children
(www.realwarriors.net/family/children/militarychild.php)
 - a. Good-byes are Hard
 - b. I Can Do That!
5. Parents of Military Children write letters to their kids, explaining why they are proud of their child, then schools display letters and information about the child on a bulletin board
6. Students create posters about Month of the Military Child/Military Kids to display in the school/community

7. Collect items to donate for Hero Pack (or local military support group) to give kids when parents deploy or are in the hospital
8. Student of the Day/Week (depending on number of Military Children), spotlight a different Military Child each day/week